

Pierce's Disease/Glassy-winged Sharpshooter Science Advisory Panel Comments and Recommendations

September 4, 2002
Sacramento, California

The meeting began with a complete program review being provided to the Panel by CDFA staff and cooperators. Activities in each of the major elements of the program were discussed during a public briefing session, after which the Panel convened in executive session to discuss program activities and develop recommendations. Following are their recommendations and comments relative to the scientific basis of each of the major program elements.

Contain the Spread

1. Nursery Program

a. Activities at Origin

- i. Based on the success of the program, the inspection and treatment of nursery stock shipments at origin, as practiced under current protocols, should continue.
- ii. CDFA and Counties should develop guidelines for pre-shipment treatment of nursery stock at origin, including methods, timing, and materials.
- iii. Since treatment efficacy depends on proper application of materials, it is important to continue efforts to ensure pesticide applicators in nurseries are properly trained.
- iv. CDFA should solicit proposals for development of an approved treatment for nursery stock.
- v. The potential relationship between the number of GWSS moving into a new area and the probability of an infestation becoming established should be evaluated.

b. Activities at Destination

- i. Continue detection trapping at destination nurseries.
- ii. CDFA and Counties should develop criteria for prioritizing inspection of arriving shipments. Inspection of all arriving shipments is not necessary.
- iii. Need to collect data (host, date, treatment materials, etc.) on rejected shipments, for analysis.

2. Bulk Citrus Movement

- a. Based on experience in California, this is a high-risk pathway for moving GWSS.
- b. Preharvest treatments, or other efficacious methods for disinfesting bulk citrus shipments at origin, should be further developed and continued.
- c. Inspection activity at origin and destination should be strengthened.
- d. CDFA should solicit proposals for development of efficacious methods for disinfesting bulk citrus shipments at origin and destination.
- e. The pre-harvest treatment threshold for GWSS in citrus orchards should be the following: 1 or more GWSS per orchard, based on a monitoring system approved by CDFA, USDA, and the Counties.
- f. CDFA and the Counties should collect additional data (treatment history, mitigation measures, etc.) on rejected shipments, for analysis.
- g. Citrus workers should be trained on the Citrus Research Board's GWSS personnel and equipment guidelines for mitigating the potential spread of GWSS.

3. Bulk Grape Movement

- a. The SAP recognizes that movement of bulk grapes for processing poses less risk than originally anticipated.

Statewide Survey

1. Recent experience indicates that trapping and homeowner call-ins are more effective than visual survey for finding new infestations of GWSS.
2. Based on cumulative experience, the trapping program is more effective than annual visual surveys at finding GWSS in high-risk nurseries. Trap servicing and shipment inspections provide sufficient opportunity for visual detection of GWSS at these nurseries.
3. Visual survey should continue around high-risk nurseries (annually), new landscaping, new finds, and packing houses.
4. GWSS survey activities should be coordinated with PD survey activities.
5. The SAP recognizes that higher trap densities will increase GWSS detections at low population levels. The CDFA, USDA, Counties, and growers should work together to develop acceptable standardized trapping protocols.

Rapid Response

1. As much as possible, areas (rather than individual infested properties) should be treated if the goal is eradication.
2. The SAP recommends that CDFA, USDA, and the Counties evaluate the data from rapid response activities conducted against urban infestations in Fresno and Tulare Counties to determine whether original goals of GWSS population reduction and containment are being achieved.
3. The SAP recommends that a standardized data reporting system be developed for tracking actions and results from rapid response activities conducted against urban GWSS infestations.

Public Outreach

1. The SAP recommends continuing to enhance coordination of outreach programs between state, local, and extension services regarding research.

Research

1. The SAP re-emphasizes that research is the key to solving the Xylella problem in California.

Biological Control

1. Continue biological control efforts.
2. Investigate the potential impacts of pesticide applications on parasitoids.

Pilot Projects

1. Future pilot projects need to focus, from the start, on both the disease and the vector.
2. Activities conducted in the pilot and area-wide projects are providing information that will be used in future management programs. One cannot wait for the insect to invade their areas to become concerned about the problem.
3. Investigate the correlation between trap catches and actual field population densities.